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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Mechanized KVP Alert Force in EggesinEVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 23 October to 14 November 1953

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DATE PREPARED 12 January 1954REFERENCES PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. On 7 November 1953, KVP tank units were quartered in Project IX in Spechtberg. Eighty-nine T-34/85 tanks and two armored scout cars were in the garages that had been completed in the A section. At least, 14 identical tanks were in the area of the B section those garages were still unoccupied. Source thought that at least 50 tanks were stored in this area.¹

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2. On 2 November 1953, an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 men were quartered in the KVP Kaserne in Spechtberg near Torgelow. They wore blue service color except some, who wore black or red service color. Motor vehicles were in the storage sheds north of the Neumuehl road and armored vehicles including four T-34/85 tanks, one S tank and two SP guns, which presumably were SU-100 models, were in the storage sheds south of the road. About 300 men held a practice in the terrain near the barracks installation. They had no heavy weapons. They attacked toward the railroad line.¹

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About 150 standard houses had been constructed for the officers of these units and their dependents. The construction of a waterworks, which was scheduled to be completed by late 1954, started at the time of observation.²

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4. In the night on 7 November 1953, festivities were held by Soviet and VP officers in the camp on the southern perimeter of Eggesin. At the time of information, 800 to 1,000 KVPs, about 150 KVP officers and an estimated 30 Soviet officers including some who wore civilian clothes, were quartered in the project. Another course of instruction for officer candidates which involved about 70 trainees wearing red-bordered black or black service color commenced in the camp on 10 November 1953.

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5. On 5 November 1953, an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 men were quartered in the barracks installations in the woods near Karpin. the barracks were occupied about 75 percent. Construction activities on the machine shops and motor vehicle storage sheds were sped up to get the buildings completed

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before winter. Some machine shops were allegedly completed and housed armories at the time of observation. From 9 to 14 November 1953, the dependents of about 25 officers and NCOs moved into the wooded area.⁴

6. From 8 to 9 a.m., 10 to 11 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. during the period from 26 October to 5 November 1953, reports of mortars were heard daily except on Sundays from the direction of forest sections Nos 147 and 148. From 2 to 3 p.m. on 30 October 1953, several tanks moved about the Neumuehl area and fired about 20 rounds of practice ammunition. From 7 to 14 November 1953, record firings were held in the Hoelkebaum district three or four times a day. In the late afternoon on 3 November 1953, about 15 T34/85 tanks left the Eggesin railroad station toward Neumuehl. In the morning on 4 November 1953, eight soldiers performed demolition practices in forest section No 241. They cut several firs, about 20 meters high. In the afternoon on 5 November 1953, about 10 T-34/85 tanks practiced driving in the Neumuehl area. At about 10 p.m., 10 apparently defective tanks of this model were towed by tanks from the wooded area to the Eggesin railroad station where they were loaded onto flatcars. They were not observed departing. ⁴ and ⁶

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1. Comment. Units stationed at Spechtberg, which is also known as Construction Project IX, include the Eckhardt medium tank SF gun unit, the Schmidt heavy tank SF gun unit and the Klenner tank instruction battalion of the Eggesin Mezz Alert Force. [redacted]
[redacted] It is believed that the total strength of these units was overestimated.
2. [redacted]
3. Comment. The occupation figures tend to indicate that the project still quarters units known from previous reports including the headquarters, headquarters units, the signal battalion, the reconnaissance battalion and the rear services of the Eggesin Mezz Alert Force. The courses of instruction for officer candidates possibly are an organizational measure intended to serve the officer candidates' selection prior to their assignment to schools.
4. [redacted]
5. Comment. [redacted] men transferred from TV 12 or the Eggesin Mezz Alert Force to TV 24 or the Potsdam Mezz Brigade under another reassignment program.
6. Comment. The tanks observed in the night hours on 3 and 5 November probably came from, or were taken to, a repair shop and presumably belonged to the tank SF gun units of the Eggesin Mezz Alert Force stationed at Spechtberg, directly west of Neumuehl. [redacted]
[redacted]

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